

CVUSD

Board Policy

BP 6181.1

Instruction

Magnet /Academy Schools

The Governing Board desires to provide a variety of educational programs designed to address students' diverse learning needs and enhance student achievement through innovative methods and ideas. The Board recognizes that a Magnet/Academy School concept is an effective tool to broaden public school choice, stem declining enrollment, improve the quality of education, and promote diverse student enrollments. Magnet/Academy schools are unique educational programs operating within the district, for which attendance boundaries are not established and transportation is not provided.

Magnet/Academy schools provide opportunities that encourage academic excellence in basic areas of study as well as intensive educational experiences in areas in which students demonstrate unusual talent and/or interest.

The Governing Board recognizes that Magnet/Academy schools offer unique learning opportunities requiring uniquely skilled staff. By definition each Magnet/Academy school is expected to practice creative approaches particular to the Magnet/Academy school's thematic focus. Although some needs of Magnet/Academy schools may be similar, accommodations for their differences from one another and traditional schools must be considered in providing district support.

The Governing Board recognizes that it may be necessary to reconstitute the school's student population if it is overly concentrated with low SES and ELL students so that it has a more educationally sound, research-based balance typically below 30%.

The Superintendent or designee may establish an advisory (vision) committee of staff and community members to evaluate proposals for Magnet/Academy schools. Once granted, the committee may wish to request representation on the District Advisory Committee (DAC).

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

Magnet/Academy schools shall comply with state and federal law and Board policy regarding nondiscrimination in district programs.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually evaluate Magnet/Academy schools in accordance with law. (Education Code 58510)

He/she shall report the evaluation results to the Board.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

I. Types of Magnet/Academy schools

Magnet/Academy schools shall be designed to meet the need for educational experiences for students with similar interests and diverse backgrounds. Courses of study shall have special subject areas and/or unique training or professional development as a focus not available at traditional district schools, and, in most instances, require special equipment and materials, unique teaching techniques, strategies, and approaches. Such programs may include science/technology or mathematics, humanities/writing, international studies, intensive world language/dual-immersion, open classroom philosophy, the arts or similar programs not generally concentrated in the traditional public classroom/school.

Types of Magnet/Academy schools include:

Magnet Schools, whether school-within-a-school or campus wide, will be at the elementary level. Academies will be at the middle school level whether school-within-a-school or campus wide. Majors programs are at the high school level.

A. **Magnet/Academy Program (School-within-a-School):** A magnet program serves a specified number of students from more than one attendance area in a school which also provides a traditional program to students from a specific attendance boundary area. Students from the magnet and traditional program are provided opportunities to interact with each other to the extent possible.

B. **Magnet/Academy (Campus wide):** Magnet/Academy schools offer unique instructional programs related to the Magnet/Academy school theme to all students attending the school. The school wide program serves eligible students throughout the district, and has no designated attendance boundaries of its own.

(cf. 0200 – Goals for the School District)

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